

# Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

## January 2007

803-576-2080



### District Welcomes New Soil Conservationist

The Richland Conservation District welcomes LaKeisha R. Hill as the new NRCS Soil Conservationist working out of the Lexington Field Office which serves both Lexington and Richland counties. LaKeisha, a native of Cuba, AL joined NRCS in August of 2005 and worked in Florence, SC prior to coming to Lexington. LaKeisha's educational background includes Environmental Science and Soil and Water Science and she taught school in Florida for two years prior to joining NRCS.

Although not raised on a farm, LaKeisha has fond memories of helping her grandmother plant and gather vegetables on her 5 acre field. When asked what she likes about working for NRCS she had the following to say, "Working for NRCS affords me the versatility of a flexible work schedule that incorporates one on one customer service, sales and technology to promote the health and well-being of our environment and natural resources."

Working under the leadership of Doug Deaderick, District Conservationist and Tommy Stone, Soil Conservation Technician, LaKeisha is looking forward to serving the needs of Richland and Lexington counties.

Soil Conservations are moved around early in their NRCS careers to gain experience in different rural and urban settings.

Long range plans for LaKeisha include serving as District Conservationist then as a Resource Conservationist and perhaps eventually working in Washington, DC.



## Farm-City Sponsors Tour Governors' Mansion and Gardens



A tour of the Governor's Mansion and grounds was hosted by the Richland Farm-City Committee in appreciation to the sponsors of the Farm-City Week contests and Awards Luncheon. First the group was given a tour of the beautiful mansion by a very knowledgeable guide who told about the history of the house and the people who had lived there. Pictured above are two of the rooms in the mansion. This year's theme of Farm-City Week was "the horticulture industry" so as an extra treat the horticulturalist for the mansion led the group on a tour of the mansion's grounds which included the terrace, pool house and the pool area, where the fountain, shown above, is located. Next were the formal gardens on the adjacent grounds between the Lace House and the Caldwell-Boylston House. Another treat was the opportunity to view the private vegetable gardens the Governor's chef uses for preparing their meals. One of the gardens is pictured above. Everyone enjoyed the event and learned a lot about horticulture from an expert and had a great history lesson while enjoying the wonderful home of our Governor.



## Arbor Day Celebrated at Polo Elementary School



Pictured l-r Associate Commissioner, Jeff Laney, Education Coordinator Mary Jane Henderson, Tree Guy, Tim Womick and County Councilman, Val Hutchinson. Tim presented a fast paced and highly animated program teaching about the importance of trees. The children were challenged to really think about trees and where they live. Tim used props as diverse as a large African drum, an abacus, a rayon dress and a squirt bottle. A bird's nest wound up on someone's head while another child wore dark sunglasses and sang like Elvis. The children were laughing and learning all at the same time.

## SC Institute for Natural Resource Conservation at Lander University

Chelsea Connor was sponsored by the Richland Conservation District to attend the educational week long camp. Chelsea lived in a dorm and attended programs on campus. Chelsea's studies focused on water quality, boating safety, wildlife and wildlife management, soil composition, geology and she even got to pan for gold. Chelsea had a blast, made new friends and received a college credit. If you are interested in more information for the 2007 scholarship please call Mary Jane Henderson at 803-576-2083.



## Soil Stewardship Celebrated in area Churches

Pastor Eddie Usher from Lebanon United Methodist Church accepted the 2006 Soil Stewardship award for Lebanon's commitment to the Stewardship program. The concept of stewardship involves personal and social responsibilities. The focus for 2007 will be Conservation's Power. Topics will address the differences between Renewable and Nonrenewable energy and Fuels for the Future. What type of fuel will we be using? Other topics to consider include energy saved by no-till farming practices, solar, windbreaks and irrigation water management.

Stewardship Week reminds us of the power of each person to conserve natural resources and improve the world.

## No-Till Drill Available

The No-Till Drill is available for this year's planting season. The drill is stored with Mr. Pete Swygert (803-754-1948) in Blythewood. There is a \$50.00 minimum fee (\$50.00 covers the 1<sup>st</sup> five acres) plus \$10.00 per acre. The \$50.00 will cover our transport cost. Example: 2 acres would cost \$50.00. Example: 6 acres would cost \$60.00. If you think you might be interested in renting the drill, call early.



## Farmer of the Year

Commissioner, Heath Hill (R) presents the 2006 Conservation Farmer of the Year award to Jason Carter (L) of Eastover. Jason farms 400 acres of corn and soybeans using the no-till method. Jason's farming operation is diversified in that he has over 40 acres of nursery stock (trees and shrubs). Jason has been farming independently for the past 11 years and is a participant in the NRCS USDA Environmental Quality incentive Program (EQIP).

## Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Odell Anderson accepting the Teacher of the Year Award from Commissioner, Hemphill Pride, III. Mrs. Anderson teaches Second Grade at Gadsden Elementary School and is diligent in seeking environmental learning opportunities for her students. It's simply magical to watch her build the enthusiasm of her students to make them receptive to conservation ideas.



## Career Day

Mary Jane Henderson, from the Conservation District, discussed the many career options available to protect our Natural Resources during Career Day at Blythewood High School.

## Conservation Station

The Conservation Station is an educational center for children and adults focusing on our natural resources and using a hands on approach to activities dealing with Soils, Geology, Forestry, Wildlife, Air Quality and Water. Contact Mary Jane Henderson at 803-576-2083 for more information.





## A group of nine children are posing in a classroom. They are dressed in various costumes: a boy in a suit and tie, a girl in a nurse outfit with a stethoscope, a girl in a chef's hat and apron, a boy in a cowboy hat and boots holding a small white goat, a girl in a green nurse outfit, a boy in a plaid shirt and khaki pants, a girl in a striped shirt, a boy in a cowboy hat and overalls, and a boy in a green t-shirt. The background features a black bulletin board with orange circles and a whiteboard with a drawing of a pink pig.



**Richland County celebrates its annual Farm-City Week in November.** Richland County students received awards in the following categories: Bulletin Board, Essay, Photography, Dress-up and a new Science Project Contest, all of which promote a better understanding of the interdependence between farm and city. The Awards Luncheon was heavily attended and everyone enjoyed Ms. Barbara Hevia's Second Grade class from St Joseph School perform skits demonstrating job skills as rural Farmers or urban City Slickers.



## Ponds.....Cement or the Real Thing!



The Conservation District offers technical support to landowners interested in building a pond on their property. An evaluation of the proposed site can determine if soil characteristics, water supply and topography are suitable for building a pond. Guidance can be provided as to design of the dam (embankment), pond size, depth of water, constructions procedures, needed easements and/or permits and contractor recommendations for building the pond. Vegetation recommendations are made once construction is completed. The next step is to properly stock the pond with the correct fish species. Last but not least is an annual maintenance program for the pond water quality and fish production. Areas around the pond where the soil was disturbed and the dam itself should be stabilized with suitable vegetation, fertilized and maintained annually to protect water quality of the pond and improve the ascetics of the pond area. For further information contact Hugh Caldwell at 803-576-2082.

### Commissioner Re-elected



Hemphill P. Pride, III resides in Columbia, SC. He is beginning his second term as a member of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. He was first elected to the District in November 2002 and re-elected on November 7, 2006. An alumnus of Fisk University, he is employed as a construction inspector with the Columbia Housing Authority and is a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Community Relations Council Luncheon Club. When asked why he ran for office Mr. Pride said "I ran for Commissioner to insure that our two most important natural resources, soil and water, will be protected. This in return will insure that generation after generation will continue to have the best quality of life."

## 2006 Affiliates

We would like to thank all of our affiliate members who have taken an interest in the future of Richland County. We truly appreciate your support which enables us to provide environmental education in schools and technical services to the citizens of Richland County.

Susan	Brill		Lizard's Thicket
Jack & Alfred	Burnside	Burnside Farm	Kirkman Finlay, III
Richard	Burnside		Virginia Lacy
Jason	Carter		Christian Hendricks
William P.	Cate		Clark Surratt
W. Patrick	Dorn, Jr.		William McNeill
Edwin S.	Eargle		
Margaret	Gardner		
Wilbert	Goff		
John V	Green		
James	Harman	Palmetto Lawn & Leisure Co.	
Raymond L.	Hendrix		
.Jim	Wilson		
Doc	Howard	Long Branch Farm, Inc.	
Ann	Jennings	The Congaree Land Trust	
Hugh B.	Jones		
Mark P.	Kays	Kay's Forestry	
Glenda	Lewis		
George T.	McCutchen, Jr.		
Linda & Al	McNeil		
Edmund H.	Monteith		
Woody	Moore		
Hugh	Caldwell		
Kenneth	Mullis		
John W.	Parris		
Jerry	Poston		
Ben	Skelley	Ag South Farm Credit	
Nancy & Richard	Slocum		
Lynwood	Stuck		
Cecil K.	Sturkie		
James H.	Tuten		
Felix D.	Walker		
G.R.P.	Walker	Middlefield Farm	
Eugene (Red)	Weed	Irmo Grading	
Harold	Wessinger		
Thomas M.	Williams		
Frances	Wilson		
State Fair			
Susan	McPherson	International Paper	
John	Cotton		

**Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given from Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote "Conservation Stewardship" within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping educate the students and landowners of Richland County. Become an affiliate member by sending this slip to:**

**Richland Conservation District  
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A  
Columbia, SC 29204**

I would like to become an Individual/Corporate sponsor of The Richland Conservation District

<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Basic Membership	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Affiliate Member	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Affiliate Member	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Affiliate Member	\$200 or more

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution is tax deductible

### **Richland Conservation District**

#### **Commissioners**

John V. Green, Chairman  
Lewis Gunter, Vice Chairman  
Kenneth Mullis, Sec./Treasurer  
Heath Hill  
Hemphill Pride, III  
Rev. Cathy Jamieson-Ogg, Chaplain

#### **Associate Commissioners**

Jeff Laney  
Mary Ann Hoffman  
Ray Fontaine

#### **District Staff**

Hugh Caldwell, District Manager  
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant  
Mary Jane Henderson, Education Coordinator  
Doug Deaderick, District Conservationist, NRCS  
Ricky Walker, Civil Engineer Tech. NRCS, Ft. Jackson  
Joy Sullivan, Program Coordinator, DNR

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

The Richland Conservation District Commissioner's Board Meeting will be the second Monday of each month at Lizard's Thicket, 402 Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC. Each meeting begins at 6:30 PM. The public is cordially invited to attend. For information call 803-576-2080 or email [charliefisher@richlandonline.com](mailto:charliefisher@richlandonline.com).

The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability.